

Message Text

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11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KE

SUBJECT: GOVT DEFEAT ON KARIUKI MURDER REPORT COSTS ONE MINISTER
AND TWO ASSISTANT MINISTERS THEIR JOBS

REF: NAIROBI 4564

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

1. IN TUMULTUOUS SESSION JUNE 11, PARLIAMENT CONCLUDED FOUR DAYS OF HEATED DEBATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON KARIUKI MURDER, DEFEATED BY NARROW 62-59 MARGIN A GOVT MOTION DEEMED BY BACKBENCHERS TO VITIATE REPORT, AND ACCEPTED REPORT ITSELF WITHOUT DISSENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, ONE MINISTER (MULIRO-WORKS) AND TWO ASSISTANT MINISTERS (KEEN-WORKS, KIBISU-LABOR) WERE SUMMARILY DISMISSED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR SPEAKING OR VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION AND OTHERS (APPARENTLY INCLUDING KIBAKI, KIANO AND OMOLO-OKERO) WERE REPORTEDLY NEARLY FIRED FOR NOT BEING PRESENT IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE VOTE. HOW FAR THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE JUNE 11 VOTE WILL GO IS NOT YET CLEAR, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT IS IN NO MOOD AT THE MOMENT TO GIVE HIS CRITICS COMFORT BY TAKING ANY STEPS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICIALS OR OTHERS NAMED IN THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT. KENYATTA HAS

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ALWAYS AVOIDED MAKING CHANGES UNDER PRESSURE LEST THEY BE

INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, AND IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE NOW.

2. WE WILL PROBABLY FACE A SITUATION IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT, HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY DAMAGED, WILL BECOME MORE ISOLATED, MORE REPRESSIVE AND PERHAPS MORE TEMPTED TO PLAY POPULAR POLITICS AT THE EXPENSE OF FOREIGN COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY ASIANS, WHILE HIS CRITICS ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO, OR CAPABLE OF, CHALLENGING HIM DIRECTLY, PARTICULARLY AS MANY OF THEM ALSO HAVE A STAKE IN THE SYSTEM AND AGREE WHEN HE WARNS THAT NO ONE WILL BENEFIT FROM CHAOS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW FAR THE PRESIDENT CARRIES TOTAL LOYALTY AND THUS WHO IS PUSHED INTO THE RANKS OF HIS CRITICS.

3. ANOTHER UNKNOWN FACTOR AT THIS POINT IS THE EFFECT ON THE AGING KENYATTA'S HEALTH OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL STRAIN DERIVING FROM THE PROTRACTED KARIUKI AFFAIR, BUT FOR THE MOMENT HIS ONLY MEDICAL PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE A RECURRENCE OF GOUT.
LINDSTROM

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